2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

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their thoughts and hands to the production once again of merchant ships.

It is interesting to note that immediately before the Suez crisis in 1956 over 5,000 ships a year, representing more than twenty-two million net registered tons of shipping were calling at Aden. They took some four million tons of oil away from the harbour in their bunkers, much of which was supplied by the Aden Refinery which was completed in 1953.

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The consequence of all this was a considerable expansion of business, not only in the port, but also in the Colony as a whole, and more and more people flocked in from the mainland and from overseas to supply the labour required by merchants and by building contractors who were beginning to make good the time that had been wasted during the war years, when building in any form other than for purely military purposes had been impossible. The consequences, or one of them, of this influx of people was to make the housing shortage acute and was to cause me, as a Legislative Councillor, many weary evenings on Committees. At the same time our shortage of staff and floating craft was a major preoccupation during my mornings and evenings in the Port Trust building. Skilled men were almost impossible to find, and high wages were not the solution to the problem, because everybody had been abroad during the war and now that it was over everyone wanted to stay at home; added to which there was the six-year gap represented by the war years in the production of skilled men, in particular in the engineering profession. It was a difficult time, but we overcame the major obstacles and the port was never forced to close even for an hour. Sickness reduced our ranks temporarily and tugs broke down and launches ran into each other, but the work went on, thanks to the supreme loyalty of the Port Trust employees.

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Eventually more pilots were recruited and half-fledged engineers found and pilot launches and a new tug ordered, but as soon as the men could be found and the craft launched so the demand increased, and in 1951 when I left the Port Trust my task was still far from complete. All our time, however, was

245 camel from the high hills of the interior. Coffee will not grow below 4,000 ft. at the latitude of Aden and the Yemen.

244 Away to the east on the Audhali plateau and in the other
243 high regions, wheat and barley are cultivated by well water
312 irrigation from shallow wells, and apricot trees grow naturally
245 among the fields and grape vines run over the trees that border the grassy valleys. Much attention has been given to increasing the fruit cultivation and to the growing of tomatoes and other
[177] vegetables in the summer time when the low lying plains are far too hot. Plums and apples and peaches and walnuts have been introduced successfully, and lower down citrus culti-
262 vation has had surprisingly good results. Originally, of course,
178 the idea was that these fruits and vegetables would be available
433 to the Colony markets and to a certain extent this has proved to be true, but no-one anticipated the extent to which local consumption of vegetables and fruit would increase in the
(177) Protectorate itself. It is extraordinary how quickly people will develop a taste for new varieties of vegetables, as I had found in Muscat when I first introduced cabbages. Nobody had seen them before and at first I had to give them away and persuade people to eat them, but it was not long before they came and helped themselves. It was much the same in the Protectorate with lettuce, which was looked upon with distrust when I first travelled to Loder and Mukeiras, but by the time I left twenty-five years later no meal was complete without a dish of salad.

243 Down in the plains the main crops are sorghum and bullrush
262 millet which grow throughout the Protectorate and provide the staple diet of the people who grind and pound the grain into coarse flour from which they make a very palatable un-
245 leavened bread. Where water is available in sufficient quantity
312 as at Lahej and in the Wadi Hadhrami, there are extensive date-palm plantations and bananas, and other Eastern fruits are
244 cultivated with particular emphasis on the melons which flourish abundantly and are of excellent quality.

241 Two things have handicapped agricultural development in
441 the Protectorate. The first of these is lack of money and the second lack of a suitable marketing organisation. The power to

3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

Fakum, the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula, are situated in this area.

(d) The island of Perim.

Description

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jabel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Crater, the main Arab town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the crater of the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain which is barely ½ mile wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement, but except during the cold weather months produce is very limited. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Perim

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet (65 m.) high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the subsoil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. Perim was at one time of importance as a coaling station, and the Eastern Telegraph Company and Lloyd's were represented there. There are now no commercial concerns on the island.

Climate

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The minimum day temperature recorded was 69·1 in February, 1938, and the maximum was 101·5 in July, 1938. The rainfall totalled 1·59 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e., during the north-east monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e. in July and August, strong winds prevail which give some relief from the damp airless heat of May, June and September. Sandstorms are apt to occur in the months of May, June, July and August. These come from a northerly direction usually a short time before sunset and are often

Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

232 *Equine Contagious Disease.*—In February, sudden deaths amongst the hackney carriage horses occurred, and, as a result of post-mortems, African horse sickness was suspected. By taking prompt precautionary measures, the disease was confined to Crater. Nine deaths were recorded.

Three segregation camps for cattle are being constructed, two at Sheikh Othman and one at Maala.

Fisheries

226 Fishing is, generally speaking, good, but the quantity of fish caught is greatly influenced by the movements of the different species of sardinella on which the large species feed. Shark, barracuda, horse-mackerel, sea-perch, dolphins, the smaller members of the tunny family, rock cod soles, and mullet are the principal edible fish. Sword or sail fish make their appearance at certain seasons of the year, but are not easily saleable for human consumption. Crabs and crawfish are to be had at all seasons, and oysters are available in the winter months. The fishermen are a very industrious people and employ various kinds of nets as well as hand-lines in their work. The nets used are of the stationary, circular throwing, and drag varieties, the latter being used from the shore. In addition a special net is operated from boats working in pairs during the monsoon period. Throwing nets for mullet, mackerel and a form of whitebait are also in use. The catch is at times greater than the requirements for local consumption, and the surplus is salted for export. Shark is almost invariably treated in this manner, and during some seasons large quantities are dried. Whitebait is exported.

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The fishermen are subject to certain rules which forbid trawls and limit the size of nets, and in addition they defer to the judgment of their elected Akils in matters of fishing custom.

228 Licences to dive for pearls both in the harbour and in the waters of Perim are obligatory, but no licences are required to fish.

Salt

258 A salt work was first constructed by the Italian firm of Messrs. Gaustalla and Company (now styled The Aden Salt Works) in the year 1885, and it carries on a profitable business in salt production at Sheikh Othman. This was followed by the salt work constructed in 1909 by the Bombay firm of Messrs. Abdullabhoy and Joomabhoy Lalljee and Company. Two more salt works have since been constructed by Messrs. Hajeebhoy Laljee and Company and the Little Aden Salt Industrial Company in May, 1923, and October, 1927, respectively, and they continue to work successfully. The 439 total quantity of salt exported to India and other places during 655 the last year was 230,379 tons. The monopoly of salt for local consumption is in the hands of Government, who have licensed certain pits to Arabs at Sheikh Othman.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

The following table shows the number of persons who entered and left the colony during 1947:

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	Emigration		Immigration	
	By Sea	*By Air*	*By Sea*	*By Air*
British	54	313	272	480
Other Europeans, including Americans	51	235	156	317
Indians	914	329	1,482	313
Jews	103	54	103	87
Other Asiatics	2	—	35	4
Somalis	3,512	4	3,259	32
Other Africans	17	6	51	50
Arabs	3,663	496	3,026	642
TOTAL	8,316	1,437	8,374	1,925
GRAND TOTAL	9,753		10,299	

Figures for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 are given for comparison:

1944	Total Emigrants	9,460	Total Immigrants	7,371
1945	Total Emigrants	7,960	Total Immigrants	6,910
1946	Total Emigrants	26,661	Total Immigrants	25,851
1947	Total Emigrants	9,753	Total Immigrants	10,299

It will be noted that the 1947 figures have reverted to approximately those of 1944 and 1945 and this may be accounted for by the fact that the immediate post-war rush on travel has subsided, in so far as the Colony is concerned.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

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Aden is primarily a port, and the principal occupations of the population are those connected with the port, such as the coaling of ships, the handling of cargo and the building and repair of vessels. Next come the entrepot industries such as the cleaning and sorting of coffee and incense, the grading of hides and skins, and the distribution or re-shipment of imported merchandise. The one local product is salt, see Chapter VI. Finally, there are some small industries, such as the cutting of pearl-button blanks from trochas shells for local demand, the manufacture of soap, the fashioning of aluminium utensils from imported aluminium plate, the weaving of imported thread into cloth or dyeing and printing of imported cloth for the local market, the crushing of sesame seeds for cooking oil, the manufacture of cigarettes and the fashioning (without the dotter's wheel) of crude earthenware jars for storing water. At a rough

S.Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

kinds of fish are taken in fair quantity but no one species appears to predominate. Crawfish are reported as numerous on rocky bottoms, but they are only taken locally for sale fresh to Europeans. Oysters abound on the rocks between tidemarks and could no doubt be cultivated in several landlocked bays where markets are available.

In general, the fisheries appear to be promising but localised and seasonal, the fishermen tending to follow the shoals along the coast. A fishery based on a harbour might have to employ vessels of considerable ranged storage capacity if landings were to be kept constant throughout the year.

During the greater part of 1947 the Fisheries Officer was still under training in the United Kingdom, but the Fisheries Adviser to the Colonial Office himself spent a fortnight in the Colony and Protectorate early in the year and was much impressed by the quantity of fish available. By November an extensive survey of the fisheries resources of this area had been planned in London and a party, consisting of a fish oils chemist, a canning expert, a Political Officer and the permanent Fisheries Officer, arrived in Aden towards the end of the month. They were later joined by the Fisheries Adviser and a second Fisheries Officer was expected early in 1948.

By the end of the year, the two technical experts and the Political Officer were at work at Mukalla and the Fisheries Officer was at Aden starting to equip two vessels for experimental fishing.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from trochus shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing-plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

Lorries are owned in small fleets by merchants and contractors; conversely, the 65 buses are almost in individual ownership. Taxis are in small ownership, and mainly driven by Somalis.

As an example of the diverse nationality of business ownerships in Aden, the following are the main concerns and their proprietorship:

5. Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

Salt Works	Italian, Indian.
Soap Works	French.
Dyeing and Printing	French, Indian.
Button Factory	Italian.
Aluminium Factory	Indian.
Shipping Agencies	British, Indian.
Ship-owning	French, Arab, Indian.
Oil Supply	British, French, Arab.

The most important developments in 1947 were the restriction of output of the weaving and dyeing industries owing to inability to procure the thread or cloth to process and the establishment of the new industries of button-cutting and aluminium-pressing.

There are no co-operative societies.

Aden has no agriculture, forests or mines. Animal husbandry is confined to the keeping of a few hundred cows for dairy purposes. The following statement shows the imports and exports of animals:

TOTAL IMPORTS OF ANIMALS

	Sheep and Goats	*Cattle*	*Camels*	*Horses*	*Mules*
By land	34,048	4,870	85	12	—
By sea	101,677	180	—	2	29
TOTAL	135,725	5,050	85	14	29

TOTAL EXPORTS OF ANIMALS (BY SEA)

Sheep and goats	*Cattle*	*Camels*	*Dogs*
2,697	28	—	4

Total Exports of Animals by Military . Sheep and goats, 180

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

There are three kinds of schools in the Colony: Government schools under the Director of Education, which are financed directly from Colony funds; schools which Government recognises and assists by means of grants-in-aid both on capital and recurrent costs; and a number of indigenous and Quranic schools for both boys and girls. The public demand for education continued to expand, and applications for admittance to schools outnumbered the available places. To meet this demand it was possible to arrange for a number of extra streams of pupils to be started, as well as for a "special" class for a group of successful candidates

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM!

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The following table shows the number of persons who entered or left the Colony during 1948: 167

	Emigration out of Aden Colony during 1948		*Immigration into Aden Colony during 1948*	
	By Sea	*By Air*	*By Sea*	*By Air*
British	100	498	173	596
Other Europeans, including Americans	38	357	72	459
Indians	637	599	1,297	676
Jews	102	162	21	74
Other Asiatics	3	87	12	62
Somalis	2,106	91	1,998	86
Other Africans	3	1	—	—
Arabs	2,029	813	2,218	648
TOTAL	5,018	2,608	5,791	2,601
GRAND TOTAL	7,626		8,392	

Figures for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 were:

1945	Total Emigrants	7,960	Total Immigrants	6,910
1946	Total Emigrants	26,661	Total Immigrants	25,851
1947	Total Emigrants	9,753	Total Immigrants	10,299

The figures for the year 1948 show a decrease of roughly 2,000 under the respective heads of emigration and immigration as compared with the year 1947, and this is mainly represented by a decrease in the numbers of Somalis and Arabs.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

Aden is primarily a port, and the principal occupations of the population are those connected with the port, such as the coaling of ships, the handling of cargo and the building and repair of vessels. Next come the entrepôt industries such as the cleaning and sorting of coffee and incense, the grading of hides and skins, and the distribution or re-shipment of imported merchandise. The one local product is salt, see Chapter VI. Finally, there are some small industries, such as the cutting of pearl-button blanks from trochus shells for local demand, the manufacture of soap, the fashioning of aluminium utensils from imported aluminium plate, the weaving 463 433

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

433 of imported thread into cloth or dyeing and printing of imported cloth for the local market, the crushing of sesame seeds for cooking oil, the manufacture of cigarettes and the fashioning (without the potter's wheel) 463 of crude earthenware jars for storing water. At a rough estimate 5,000 men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepôt industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries —garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water (Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the 464 glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of 467 the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the population and to the chronic under-employment and poverty.

511 Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are low, partly on account of the 465 very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of education and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

465 During the year there was constant pressure to increase rates of wages, not because of any increase in the cost of living (which fell slightly as 467 Japanese cloth at cheaper prices became available), but because of greater organisation among the employees of the three big companies who service 468 the port, and very largely because Government employees received substantial payments in anticipation of arrears of salary from 1st January, 1946, following the visit of a Commission of Enquiry. These interim awards to Government staff were immediately followed by demands for similar bonus payments from commercial employees, backed up by strikes or the threat of strikes, and these demands were generally conceded.

468 A strike of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's labour in November affected the port; a few ships were oiled direct from tankers or by the 504 services of office staff, but some shipping had to be diverted to other ports. The coal and other port labour joined the strike. The strikers refused Government arbitration, and after three weeks the employers conceded the majority of the men's demands.

465 A Labour Advisory Board, on which the Government, Port Trust and other substantial employers of labour are represented, has fixed the 464 minimum rate for unskilled labour at Rs. 1.6.0 (2*s.* 2*d.*) a day, and this rate is now paid by the big firms, but casual labourers who work for Arab or other small employers, do not achieve anything like this sum, even when in regular employment, and the monthly earnings of most men are greatly reduced by irregular employment.

Skilled tradesmen are insufficient for the requirements of Aden and so can command relatively good pay—up to Rs. 100 a month (£7 10*s.*) or more. There is also competition for skilled tradesmen from the oil-fields of the Persian Gulf, where high wages are being offered.

435 Commodity prices have not varied much during the year and the following are approximate figures for December, 1948 (price control is effective for such staple articles of diet as flour, rice and sugar):

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

The craft used are of two kinds, the sambuk, which is a planked surf-boat of up to 35 feet long, and the huri, a dugout canoe imported from India to which a topstrake is usually added locally. Huris range from 8 to 30 feet and are popular because they can withstand neglect and rough usage. No power-craft are yet used for fishing. During 1948 there were 34 sambuks and 341 huris in the Colony.

Nets are all hand-braided locally. There are several types which operate by surrounding a shoal of pelagic fish which are then induced to gill themselves. Beach seins are also used and cast-nets are popular for small shoaling fish. Handlines are used extensively but longlines are not known.

Although prices are generally higher for consumption fresh than for salting, lack of transport prevents fish from reaching the Colony's markets in any quantity from outside a few miles radius. In consequence, landings are spasmodic and prices fluctuate widely, to the detriment of both fisherman and consumer. There is no provision for dealing with temporary gluts except by salting for export. Salt fish is beyond the means of the poorer people, as loss of weight during curing increases its price.

In short, the Colony's fishing industry is not at present able to maintain a steady supply of fish for a community of 80,000 people. A Fishery Officer has, however, been appointed and it is hoped that he will be able to improve the position in years to come.

The island of Perim at the mouth of the Red Sea is part of the Crown Colony. The Perim fishing community comprises between 20 and 30 families, who salt and export their surplus fish to an annual value of between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000. The Perim pearl fisheries have not been let since 1946, when the lessee is reported to have lost money on the enterprise.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

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Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

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7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

The principal native product of Aden is salt, made from sea-water by solar evaporation in a series of pans, 3,682 acres in extent. 317

The industry is in the hands of four manufacturers, one Italian and three Indians. There has been a considerable improvement in production in the last three years as can be seen from the following figures :

Year	*Quantity of salt produced in tons*
1946	113,042
1947	194,549
1948	271,108
1949	303,432
1950	255,865

India bought three-quarters of its overseas requirements of salt from Aden, and Japan also increased its demands. [439]

FISHERIES

The position in the industry is in the main unaltered since the publication of the 1948 report. The Fishery Department began work on a permanent basis during the winter of 1949-50, when the Fishery Officer returned from leave in December and a British skipper for the fishery vessel arrived in Aden in January. During 1950, progress was disappointing, the fishery vessel being handicapped for eight of the twelve months by a broken winch for which the necessary parts could not be obtained, while storage space for fishing gear was not made available until July. A considerable amount of work remains to be done ashore and on board the fishery vessel before the department can be regarded as adequately equipped for its duties. 654

The recording of the amount of fish handled by the four markets in the Colony was instituted early in the year. This and public opinion have emphasised the fact that the present fishing industry is unable to supply the needs of the population of the Colony except for occasional brief periods. The result has been a varying scarcity and occasional short gluts, the high but fluctuating prices causing hardship for the consumer and insecurity for the producer. How much the position has been due to poor catches and how much to increased population it is as yet impossible to say ; the fact remains that a population of over 100,000 is dependent for its fish on a small fleet of paddling and sailing canoes with a range of a few miles, and that no storage facilities exist except for one small and obsolete cold store, and a number of decrepit ice boxes at the markets. 226 433 [254]

The Fishery Department is attacking the problem in two ways, by increasing the efficiency of existing equipment and methods and by exploring neighbouring waters with the fishery vessel in search of 654 226

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

The Island of Perim was visited early in 1950, when a good haul of sharks was made by the fishery vessel. Shark lines have been lent to the inhabitants, but the poorness of their boats, the bad weather and the roughness of the bottom led to the loss of many hooks. The Administrator of Perim has been granted funds to provide a motor sambuk during 1951, of which the Perim water-plant foreman will be engineman. 654 228

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As an example of the diverse nationality of business ownership in Aden, the following are the main concerns and the nationality of their proprietors : 471

Salt Works	Italian, Indian
Soap Works	French
Dyeing and Printing	French, Indian
Aluminium Factory	Indian
Shipping Agencies	British, Indian, French
Ship-owning	British, French, Arab, Indian

There are no co-operative societies. 474

Aden has no agriculture, forests or mines. Animal husbandry is confined to the keeping of a few hundred cows for dairy purposes. 433 234

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-8 (1951-52)1954 MNH Aden MM

each boat for purchasing boats and gear, and maintenance of the crew. In repayment the exporters take as much fish as they can from the fishermen indebted to them. Despite the frequent disagreements over the value of fish caught, few *nakhoodas* ever get free of debt.

There are no fish factories but salting is carried out by seven Arab exporters, who sell most of the fish to Ceylon. A small fish-meal plant was installed by one merchant in 1951. Sardines, anchovies and shrimps are sun-dried and bagged by these exporters in the winter months. There is one ice factory in Indian hands; some of its production is utilised for fish boxes in the markets. A cold store in British hands has not been successfully used for fish storage owing to difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of fish.

Statistics of fishermen, boats and fishing gear and exports of dried and salted fish are given on page 26.

Marketing

Marketing of fish is done generally through a single auctioneer in each of the markets. Unofficial auctioneers exist who take about 12½ per cent of the selling price. In order to control as large a share as possible of the fish passing through their hands the auctioneer lends money to fishermen against the sole right to auction their fish. Fishermen who are not indebted are free to sell to any stall-holder or rent a stall for themselves but the fact that unofficial auctioneers offer ready cash results in most of the fish passing through an agent's hands.

Fluctuating supply and demand make it impossible to give reliable figures for the average price of fish but observation shows that about 70 per cent of the price paid by the consumer goes to the fishermen, 12 per cent to the auctioneer and 18 per cent to the stallholder.

The amount of fish taken to market is normally insufficient for the needs of the populaton except in the summer months when gluts are common.

Events affecting Production

The production of fish in 1951 was below normal particularly during the summer monsoon. This is attributed to the lack of strong winds and poor upswelling of cold water which normally drives fish to the warmer coastal water. Shoals of sardine were present early in December, 1951, off the Colony and moved slowly eastwards during January and February, 1952. Large yields were obtained and fresh and dried sardines were plentiful in the markets.

The summer monsoon of 1952 was a strong one and the majority of sambuk-owners did very well. The water temperature was 69°F on one occasion and fish normally living in rocks 15 miles out were caught in great numbers inshore. The shrimp and anchovy season was generally bad and few sardines had appeared by the end of 1952.

Fisheries Department

The Fisheries Department comprises one Fisheries Officer, one

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MMI

skipper, one engineer and six crew, one accountant and one clerk/interpreter. A few statistical posts are operating in the Protectorate but Colony statistics on a weight basis will not be collected until April, 1953.

Local fishermen are encouraged to increase yields by using better materials, different gear, powered boats and to fish in any newly discovered areas, particularly off-shore. In addition the setting up of co-operative societies, a debt settlement organisation and better run markets are contemplated.

A Government loans fund of £2,000 per annum for fishermen was created in 1950. Two fishermen have mechanised their sambuks; corks for floating nets have replaced pieces of wood; more and more fishing nets are being made from machine-made twines; and better shark-fishing tackle is being introduced. Manufactured net preservatives and nylon traces are beginning to be used by the hand-line fishermen.

Fisheries Committee

A Government Fisheries Committee was appointed in 1951 to direct the activities of the Fisheries Department. Much of the progress mentioned above has been achieved since its creation. The Committee suggested a radical change in fish marketing, the setting up of a marketing organisation, debt settlement, long-term credit for fishermen, the repeal of restrictive fisheries laws and greater efforts by the Fisheries Department to find further fishing grounds and new methods suitable for the local fishing industry. All these suggestions have been favourably considered by Government and it is hoped that development will not be slow once the necessary steps have been taken.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemen Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief products are soap, soft drinks, aluminium pressed domestic utensils, cigarettes and dyed and printed cloth. These supply local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of the industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth by one-man treadle-operated handlooms which supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Aden MMI

sion was made in the Fortress Township for the election of three members, who must be of Aden or British birth; the franchise was limited to males born or resident for a stipulated period in Aden, and with a property qualification which was reduced by half (giving an electorate of about 5,000) after the 1949 election had resulted in the return of an Arab merchant, a Pakistani advocate, and a Parsee merchant.

The climate of Aden Colony and of the southern coast is generally pleasant between November and March. The summer heat, though great, is less intense than that of the interior of Arabia or of Iraq, but this is more than offset by the oppressive humidity between April and October. Rainfall is trifling, but heavy thunderstorms occur irregularly. The town relies for its water-supply on bore-holes at Shaikh Othman, supplemented by supplies in the famous Tanks, which date from pre-Islamic times and were restored for use in 1856. They have a storage capacity of 8 million gallons. Aden is a free port and there are no customs dues except on liquor, drugs, tobacco, motor spirit, and salt. Salt is a government monopoly, and is produced locally in large quantities for export by evaporation from sea-water. The only other local industries are dhow-building, soap manufacture, dyeing, cigarette-making, and fishing.

The present prosperity of the Colony depends on its importance as a bunkering port for coal and oil, for which purposes it handles a tonnage of shipping comparable with that of Liverpool. This balance will be altered when the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's new 5-million-tons-a-year refinery, begun in November 1952, comes on stream in 1954.[1] Apart from the export of salt (which supplied in 1950 75 per cent of India's imports of that commodity), the bulk of Aden's other trade consists of entrepôt and transhipment between neighbouring countries. The number of vessels, exclusive of country craft (sailing dhows, etc.) which entered the port during 1951 was 4,338 with an aggregate tonnage of 18,715,839, more than double the figure for 1938; the number of country craft was 1,643 with a tonnage of 128,201, a decrease of 17 per cent compared with the previous year. Recent estimates of imports and exports were:

	Imports	*Exports*
	(£ million)	
1948	2·29	1·88
1949	2·73	2·19
1950	3·49	3·25
1951	4·19	3·70
1952	4·71	3·80

(SOURCE: *Digest of Colonial Statistics*, no. 10, September-October 1953).

[1] *Petroleum Press Service*, December 1952.

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expanded and dried fish and fish oils are now exported regularly. The new exports have more than compensated for the decline in the revenues from incense, the supply of which has suffered from excess cutting and tapping of the few forested areas.

Indirectly, Aden colony has been a beneficiary of the Iranian oil dispute. The former concessionaire in Iran has begun construction of a 100,000 barrel per day petroleum refinery in Aden which is to supply the general area of the Indian Ocean with petroleum products formerly supplied by the now expropriated and shut-down refinery at Abadan. The estimated cost of this project is about $140 million. At present over 12,000 workers are employed on various construction jobs connected with the refinery, including over 8,000 natives and nearly 1,000 Indian nationals. Some 3,000 local inhabitants and about 200 Europeans will be permanently employed in this largest industrial establishment in southern Arabia.

To build and operate this refinery an entirely new town, complete with all modern services, has been established at Little Aden, about six miles from the old port city of Aden. Sufficient water for the domestic requirements of the new town was discovered ten miles away; sweet water for industrial purposes must be obtained by distillation of sea water. A hospital, the largest in Arabia, has also been set up. In general, local trade is benefiting tremendously from the activities of the new oil company. A new port for the discharge and loading of oil tankers is also being built.

Because of the decline in incense production in the Aden territories, Dhofar is now the most important exporter of this commodity. A petroleum concession in this province has been granted to two American oil companies (Cities Service and Richfield) which have hitherto not participated in Middle East oil development.[1] A large airfield for supplies, etc. has been established near Salala, and thorough exploration of the area is to commence within a few months. The outlook for the discovery of oil is reported to be very favorable, since the oil-rich geological strata of the Saudi Arabian or Qatar oil fields may extend into Dhofar.

[1] A concession for the area was formerly held by a subsidiary of the Iraq Petroleum Co.

1,000 live births in the 4 years 1945-48, and subsequently declined to 162 in 1949 and to 166 in 1950. As in the case of population death rates, the infant mortality statistics are exaggerated by the inclusion of immigrant deaths.

Figures for the 5 years 1946-50 indicate that deaths among children under 5 years of age accounted for 34 to 38 per cent of the total deaths. The stillbirth rate varied from 54 to 73 per 1,000 births; the maternal mortality rate, from 4 to 7 per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.

Few statistical studies have been made in the Aden protectorates. The total death and infant mortality rates are believed to be generally higher than those of the Colony, but in the absence of authentic records, inadequate data are available for measuring the actual health status of the people. Evidence obtained from the interrogation of 76 women, from 15 to 45 years of age, in Western Aden Protectorate in 1939-40[20] suggests an average infant mortality of 245 per 1,000 live births, varying from 80 to over 500 in different localities. Infancy was not accurately defined, however, and any baby breast-fed and unable to walk was classified as an infant. The mortality among children under 5 years of age was 25 to 100 per cent greater in most areas. Malnutrition and ignorance of the fundamental principles of child care are important factors contributing to the high mortality in infancy and early childhood in both the Colony and the Protectorate.

Social Economy

The economy of the Colony is based almost entirely upon shipping and trade. Not only is Aden a prominent fueling station for ocean and coastwise vessels, but it derives considerable wealth from the transshipment of goods to and from Yemen and adjacent territories, usually by means of dhows and camel caravans. The production of salt in evaporation beds along the coast surrounding Aden harbor is the only export industry. Numerous small plants have been